

Drone Class Takes Students to Higher Heights

By Dustin Barnes
Public Information
Coordinator, Arkansas
Department of Career
Education

Just as soon as they took to the skies, drones became a thorn in the side for celebrities and a headache for the federal government to manage. A-Listers have called on state and federal lawmakers to ban the unmanned aerial systems - the formal name for drones - from invading their privacy. Paparazzi use the device to enhance their coverage of superstars, mounting cameras on the drones to get places they cannot.

Drones are a hot topic at Beebe High School, but not for celebrity gossip. Students are building them, programming them, and conjuring ways they can be used to better their communities.

"Drones have a lot of applications that are useful in our society other than just stuff that people do that can get them in trouble," said Hunter Orman, a freshman at Beebe High.

Orman said the class has heightened his interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers because of all the skills needed to build a drone. He has decided to study mechanical engineering after graduating from high school.

"Engineering is a lot about learning how to build things and learning how they work. That's what we are doing with the drones - building them and designing them," he said.

Getting students interested about STEM careers is exactly why this class was created, according to Chad Mercado, who teaches it. He said the idea started on a whim.

"My principal texted me one morning and said 'What do you know about drones?' Mercado recalled.

Mercado said he did not know a thing about drones, but Principal Mike Tarkington encouraged him to research ways to bring a drone class to students at Beebe High.

The initial process was 'Yeah, they're cool,' but we needed to figure out more. We wanted to know if there were educational opportunities that we can teach the kids so they can understand and apply skills to other subjects," Mercado said.

The class, called Unmanned Aerial Systems I, started during the 2014-15 school year. The class introduces students to drones, the history behind them, and the safety regulations outlined by the FAA. Students also apply a variety of math and science skills to build drones.

The first year was such a success that school leaders added another level of the class, Unmanned Aerial Systems II, which was implemented in the 2015-16 school year. Mercado is already building the curriculum for Unmanned Aerial Systems III, set to launch in the fall.

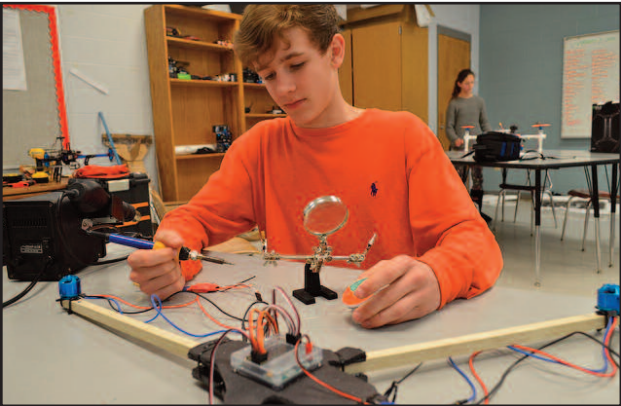
"I think drones will be like computers. Once businesses



One of the Drone's in the program.



Instructor Chad Mercado testing the drone outside.



Hunter Orman, a student working on a Drone.



Elizabeth Moody working on a Drone in class.

learned how to utilize computers, they became a social thing. The same thing will be with drones," said Mercado.

Elizabeth Moody, a freshman, said the class has helped improve upon her math and teamwork skills. It has helped her think about how drones can help her beyond high school as she pursues a career in the military.

"I want to take pictures of the land and the water to make sure everything is okay. Being afraid of heights, I can use the drones instead of going up there myself," she said.

Beebe High is considered to be one of the first schools in the nation to offer a class on drones. As a result, many other schools across the state and country are looking at ways to implement a similar program.

"I've been to a lot of schools, a lot of bigger schools than Beebe High School. Knowing that other schools don't have a drones class but Beebe - of all places - does is quite impressive," Moody said.

Mercado said he is proud to know that he is preparing his students for rewarding and cutting-edge careers of the 21st century.

"These students may not ever fly a drone after this class, but they may become a programmer or a mechanical engineer because they have gotten the interest from

ASU Beebe Students Compete in State HOSA



ASU-Searcy HOSA students are pictured, from left, Jarvis Johnson, Baylee Bartlett, Sydney Taylor, Kamryn Burton, Ashton Herekamp, and David De Los Angeles. (Not pictured was Raegan Wood)

SEARCY, Ark. – The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) at Arkansas State University-Searcy, a technical campus of ASU-Beebe, recently attended the HOSA state contest in Hot Springs.

The ASU-Searcy HOSA group members are students in the Regional Career Center from Searcy High School. Students competing were Baylee Bartlett and Kamryn Burton, who won second place in nutrition; David De Los Angeles and Ashton Herekamp, who won

second place in researched persuasive speaking; Jarvis Johnson, who won third place in pathophysiology; and Sydney Taylor, who won third place in pharmacology.

The students are now eligible to participate in the national HOSA competitions in Nashville this summer. HOSA advisors are Shannon Morgan and Susan Barnes.

The Medical Professions Education program is designed to introduce the student to the world of health career occupa-

tions. Students are taught medical terminology and procedures that are used by health care employees on the job. Students are also taught the anatomy of the human body, human disorders and the types of occupations in the medical field. This program is taught on the ASU Searcy campus.

For more information on programs offered at ASU-Beebe, call (501) 882-3600 or visit the website at www.asub.edu.

Local U of A Student Earns State Undergraduate Research Fellowship

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – Karla Morrissey, from Beebe, an honors chemical engineering major in the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas, recently received a State Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Students must have an excellent academic record and the support of a faculty mentor to be eligible to apply to the program, and must submit a

detailed research proposal and letters of recommendation from faculty.

Morrissey will use funding from the fellowship to complete a research project entitled, "Life Cycle Analysis of Sweet Sorghum as a Second-generation Feedstock for Biofuel Production."

She is the daughter of Mark and Grace Morrissey.

Her research mentor is Greg Thoma, professor of chemical engineering.

"I am grateful to receive the State Undergraduate Research Fellowship to fund my research project with my mentor, Dr. Greg Thoma," said Morrissey. "My project is to conduct a full life cycle assessment of sweet sorghum as a feedstock for bio-fuel production. This analysis will determine the environmental impacts of this process by accounting for all of the resources and energy requirements necessary to cultivate, harvest, and process this plant into biofuel. There are currently no comprehensive life cycle assessments of this particular process available in the literature, as this process

utilizes the entire plant, including the stalk juice and residual bagasse, to produce biofuel. The results of this analysis will provide a quantified impact assessment of sweet sorghum biofuel that can be used to compare to that of conventional fuels. This grant will allow me to complete my project by providing funding for software licensing and travel to present my findings at the American Center for Life Cycle Assessment Conference XVI."

"Based on my experience in working with undergraduates at her level, the ability to create a coherent proposal on a topic which is brand-new is unusual," said Thoma. "To me this indicates that Karla has a good understanding of the research process and that she is very likely to have a highly successful career as a researcher. I hope that her passion for sustainability continues because I believe she will be able to make significant contributions in her career."

Arkansas Tech Announces Fall 2015 Dean's List

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (January 11, 2016)–Arkansas Tech University has announced its Dean's List for undergraduate students on the main campus in Russellville for the fall 2015 semester.

A student must achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher and complete at least 12 hours of college-level coursework to be named to the Dean's List.

A total of 1,888 Arkansas Tech students achieved that distinction during fall 2015, an increase of 4.83 percent over fall 2014.

Arkansas Tech 2014-15 Local Graduates

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. –The Arkansas Tech University Registrar's Office has released a certified list of 1,816 degrees conferred upon students on the Russellville campus during the 2014-15 academic year.

Arkansas Tech awarded 203 degrees during its August 2014 commencement ceremony, 647 degrees during its December 2014 commencement ceremonies and 966 degrees during its May 2015 commencement ceremonies for students on the main campus in Russellville.

Graduates are listed alphabetically by the town of their address on file with the Arkansas Tech Registrar's Office. This list includes graduates from the main campus in Russellville with associate, baccalaureate,

master and educational specialist degrees.

Those who graduated with honors based upon cumulative grade point average --- Cum Laude (3.50-3.69), Magna Cum Laude (3.70-3.89) or Summa Cum Laude (3.90-4.00) --- are listed as such. Those students who completed the University Honors Program are also noted.

The graduates from the main campus of Arkansas Tech in Russellville for the 2014-15 academic year are:

Sara Alicia Griffin, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Cum Laude; Kathryn Higgins, Master of Education; Charley Ann Hoelzeman, Bachelor of Professional Studies; Nicholas S. Palmisano, Bachelor of Music Education all of Beebe.

UACCM Announces Honors Recipients

MORRILTON, AR – The University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton is proud to announce the Chancellor's List and Academic Honors List of students for the fall 2015 semester. The Academic Honors list is made up of full-time students who completed at least 12 college-level credit hours with a 3.50 to 3.99 grade point average. The White County student named as an Academic Honors student is Tammie Tullos of Romance.

SWITCH & SCORE

SELECT "Package" BEST VALUE \$19.99/mo. FOR 12 MOS.

OVER 145 CHANNELS

BUNDLE NOW TO GET: INTERNET SPEEDS YOU NEED With 99.9% High-Speed Internet reliability.

CRYSTAL-CLEAR Local and nationwide calling.

Ask me how to Bundle and save. CALL TODAY!

800-341-9639

DIRECTV AUTHORIZED DEALER

PLUS GET UP TO \$300 IN PROMOTIONAL CASH.

Little Caesars®
"Come join our Management Team at Little Caesars!"
*SEARCY, CABOT, MAUMELLE, BENTON, BRYANT, PINE BLUFF, LITTLE ROCK, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, SHERWOOD, CONWAY, JACKSONVILLE AND RUSSELLVILLE *
We are accepting applications for all Management Positions to include: Assistant Managers, Co-Managers and General Managers For all of our Central Arkansas locations listed above. We offer on-going training and a comprehensive benefits package.
We are looking for dedicated individuals with the desire to succeed in a fast paced environment with the equivalent of two years' experience in Restaurant Management preferred.
Call 501-833-9444 or fax resume to 501-835-6112 OR email to: info@littlecaesarssofar.com for an interview.

Need A Job?
Not sure where to turn? No problem. We will point you in the right direction
NOW HIRING!
Millwright/Structural Welders
Steel construction company seeking Millwrights for full time maintenance in Blytheville AND a new Construction job in Osceola, AR.
Welders need to be able to pass a Stick/MIG vertical/overhead Weld test. Rates and hours vary based on experience and job site.
Call for more info: (800)925-4565 or send resume to: danna@lexgrpinc.com.
EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Beebe Schools Menu

sponsored by

BEEBE NEWS
Your Hometown Newspaper

March 28 - April 1

Beebe Public Schools

Breakfast Menu Grades PK-8

Monday- French Toast or cereal & grahams, fruit, juice, milk
Tuesday- Mini Cinnis or cereal & grahams, fruit, milk
Wednesday- Biscuit and gravy or cereal & grahams, fruit, juice, milk
Thursday- Egg & cheese English muffin or cereal & grahams, fruit, milk
Friday- Scrambled eggs and toast or cereal & grahams, fruit, juice, milk

Lunch Menu Grades PK-12

Monday- Grades PK-2: Breaded beef patty, carrots, beans, fruit cocktail, roll, milk; Grades 3-6: Mac & cheese or popcorn chicken, potatoes, beans, fruit, roll, milk; Grades 7-8: Catfish strips or beef patty, potatoes, beans, fruit, roll, milk; Grades 9-12: Popcorn shrimp, mac & cheese, salad, beans
Tuesday- Grades PK-2: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, broccoli w/cheese, fruit, garlic toast, milk; Grades 3-6: Chicken Parmesan w/pasta, or ham & cheese sandwich, salad, corn, fruit, breadstick, milk; Grades 7-8: Chicken pot pie or chicken strips, salad, mashed potatoes, fruit, roll, milk; Grades 9-12: Mozzarella chicken bake, salad, sweet peas, roll
Wednesday- Grades PK-2: Popcorn chicken, potatoes, beans, orange wedge, roll, milk; Grades 3-6: Baked potato w/ham & cheese or cheeseburger, lettuce & tomato, beans, broccoli & carrots, fruit, breadstick, milk; Grades 7-8: Toasted ham & cheese or cheeseburger, lettuce & tomato, beans, French Fries, fruit, milk; Grades 9-12: Chicken fajita wrap, peppers & onions, refried beans
Thursday- Grades PK-2: Ham and cheese sandwich, salad, beans, peaches, milk; Grades 3-6: Chicken & noodles or chicken sandwich, sweet potato crunch, veggies, fruit, roll, milk; Grades 7-8: Mexican chicken casserole or chicken sandwich, salsa, mixed veggies, fruit, Tortilla chips, milk; Grade 9-12: BBQ chicken sandwich, French fries, coleslaw
Friday- Grades PK-2: Beef taco salad, beans, pineapple tidbits, tortilla chips, milk; Grades 3-6: Homemade cheese pizza or catfish strips, carrots, peas, strawberries, milk; Grades 7-8: Cheesy pull aparts or pepperoni pizza, carrots, peas, strawberries, milk; Grades 9-12: Country Fried steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans